

THE RURAL SCHOOL TERM.

(By J. L. McBrien, School Extension Agent, U. S. Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior.)

School attendance is of first consideration in a discussion of the rural school term. According to the state superintendent of public instruction of Louisiana, the Hon. T. H. Harris, a rural school term of six months with an average daily attendance of 100 per cent is a longer and a better and a cheaper school term than a nine-months term with an average daily attendance of only 66 2-3 per cent. The United States commissioner of education agrees with the premise laid down by Superintendent Harris. Every agency should be used to improve rural school attendance before taxpayers are asked to bear the burden of increased taxation for a longer school term while poor attendance is tolerated. Georgia is the latest state to enact a compulsory school attendance law. Such an act was passed by the Georgia legislature and approved by Governor Harris August 19, 1916.

The main features of this law are thus reviewed in an editorial in the Atlanta Journal:

"Judged by its positive virtues rather than by negative limitations, the compulsory school attendance measure passed at the recent session of the legislature is a praiseworthy and serviceable law. Its terms are not as far-reaching and stringent as those prescribed in parts of New England and the West—and wisely so, for if reforms of this character are to be permanent they must be temperate and gradual. . . .

"The measure voids in substance that children between the ages of 8 and 14 shall attend school for not less than four months a year. Exceptions to this requirement apply to those children who have completed the fourth grade of the grammar (elementary) school, those whose parents or guardians are in destitution, those whose services are needed in farm emergencies and those who are mentally or physically incapable. Violators of the law are subject to adequate penalties."

The deplorable results of a want of a compulsory school attendance law in Georgia are strikingly evident in the large number of pupils who quit school between the second and the seventh grades in the white schools. There were 55,246 pupils who entered the second grade for the year ending December 31, 1915; only 26,578 entered the seventh grade for that year, which shows that 31,670 pupils quit school between these two grades; in other words, Georgia is not giving over half her white pupils a seventh-grade education.

The public school course of Georgia covers eleven years, with the exception of a few of its progressive cities which have recently added the twelfth grade. According to the annual school report for the white schools of Georgia for the year ending December 31, 1915, there were

2,045 pupils who entered the eleventh grade; this shows that only one pupil in every 28 of those who entered the second grade entered the eleventh grade.

In Illinois, with a state-wide compulsory attendance law, for the school year ending June 30, 1915, there were 127,629 enrolled in the second grade and 103,247 pupils enrolled in the seventh grade; which shows that Illinois is giving over 80 per cent of her children a seventh grade education. For this same year in Illinois there were 15,812 pupils enrolled in the eleventh grade, which shows that one in every seven pupils enrolled in the second grade enters the eleventh grade. It is expected, however, that Georgia will make signal progress in her public school attendance under her new compulsory attendance law, and that within the next decade public sentiment in that state will demand a still better law. The Atlanta Journal, in the editorial already quoted, pays tribute to the agencies that have worked for many years in order to make it possible for Georgia to take this first step toward better school attendance, as follows:

"Many persons and many agencies have worked faithfully, through years of difficulty and disappointment, for this beneficent legislation. The Georgia Teachers' Association, the forces of organized labor, notably the Journal of Labor, published in Atlanta, women's clubs, progressive trade bodies, notably the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and constructive newspapers—these and divers others have given the cause of compulsory school attendance unstinted support. Particularly earnest and effective, however, has been the service of the state superintendent of education, Prof. M. L. Brittain, who has labored with a zeal that comes from heart-deep conviction and with an insight which experience alone can supply."

It is clearly evident that there is plenty of room for improvement in the public school attendance of both Illinois and Georgia. An aroused public sentiment, in behalf of a better school attendance will do more for its improvement than all the laws that can ever be written upon the statute books. The public press is the agency through which to arouse public sentiment until it will no longer tolerate the present poor attendance at our public schools throughout the nation. "The comparison above is for the same years in both states. The public school course in Illinois covers 12 years.

As an automobile fender a Texan has invented a huge rubber ball that is intended to envelop a pedestrian it hits, the air that he forces out of it setting brakes on the car.

According to an English scientist there is an individuality in heart beats affecting the handwriting to such a degree that it can be identified when the writing is magnified.



Safety Feed First

Protect your walls and curtains from damage by soot and sparks. No ashes or live coals can ever fall from the Smoke Proof Feed-door found on

Cole's Original Air-Tight Wood Heaters

Large Chunks of Wood can easily be fed through the extra large feed door. Housekeepers everywhere prize this the cleanest, safest and easiest feed door found on any Wood Stove.

Side feed doors are dangerous and flood rooms with smoke and soot.

Buy the sanitary, safe and convenient

Cole's Original Air-Tight—Come in Today

Big Fuel Saving

is easily realized with this remarkable heater. The combustion of wood is so perfect and complete that ashes need only be removed once in six weeks' time. No imitation stove can approach the great fuel economy possible with the Patented Air-Tight Construction of Cole's Original Air-Tight Wood Heaters.

Put one in your home today.



**PARKER-ASTIN
HARDWARE CO.**

Something New



—We have just received and are now showing a beautiful line of evening dresses in satins with net and georgette crepe overdraperies, also gold and silver cloth with silk net overdraperies and metal lace trimmings, in all the pretty shades.

—Also a full line of afternoon dresses in combinations of serges and taffetas, satins and georgette crepes, with fur and jewel trimmings.

—Nice line of silk petticoats in solid colors, also in flowered taffetas. We will be pleased to show you through these.



Webb Bros.

(Continued From Page Two.)

"I shall always want you," he said. "Only—you will never come back."

It had not occurred to either of them that this coming back, so tragically considered, was depending on an entirely problematical going away. Nothing, that early summer night, seemed more unlikely than that Sidney would ever be free to live her own life. The Street, stretching away to the north and to the south in two lines of houses that seemed to meet in the distance, hemmed her in. She had been born in the little brick house, and, as she was of it, so it was of her. Her hands had smoothed and painted the pine floors; her hands had put up the twine on which the morning-glories in the yard covered the fences; had, indeed, with what agonies of slacking lime and adding bluing, whitewashed the fence itself!

"She's capable," Aunt Harriet had grudgingly admitted, watching from her sewing machine Sidney's strong young arms at this humble spring task. "She's wonderful!" her mother had said, as she bent over her handwork. She was not strong enough to run the sewing machine.

So Joe Drummond stood on the pavement and saw his dream of taking Sidney in his arms fade into an indefinite futurity.

"I'm not going to give you up," he said doggedly. "When you come back, I'll be waiting."

The shock being over, and things only postponed, he dramatized his grief a trifle, thrust his hands savagely into his pockets and scowled down the street. Sidney smiled up at him.

"Good night, Joe."

"Good night, I say, Sidney, it's more than half an engagement. Won't you kiss me good-night?"

She hesitated, flushed and palpitating. Perhaps, after all, her first kiss would have gone without her heart—gone out of sheer pity. But a tall figure loomed out of the shadows and approached with quick strides.

"The roomer!" cried Sidney, and backed away.

"D—n the roomer!"

The roomer advanced steadily. When he reached the doorstep, Sidney was demurely seated and quite alone, the roomer looked very warm, he carried a suitcase, which was as it should be. The men of the Street always carried their own luggage, except the younger Wilson across the way. His tastes were known to be luxurious.

"Hot, isn't it?" Sidney inquired, after a formal greeting. She indicated the place on the step just vacated by Joe. "You'd better cool off out here. The house is like an oven. I think I should have warned you of that before you took the room. These little houses with low roofs are fearfully hot."

The new roomer hesitated. He did not care to establish any relations with the people in the house. Long evenings in which to read, quiet nights in which to sleep and forget—these were the things he had come for.

But Sidney had moved over and was smiling up at him. He folded up awkwardly on the low step. He seemed much too big for the house. Sidney had a panicky thought of the little room upstairs.

"I don't mind heat. I—I suppose I don't think about it," said the roomer, rather surprised at himself.

"I'm afraid you'll be sorry you took the room."

The roomer smiled in the shadow. "I'm beginning to think that you are sorry."

His quick mind grasped the fact that it was the girl's bedroom he had taken.



The New Roomer Hesitated.

Other things he had gathered that afternoon from the humming of a sewing machine, from Sidney's businesslike way of renting the little room, from the glimpse of a woman in a sunny window, bent over a needle. Genteel poverty was what it meant, and more—the constant drain of disheartened, middle-aged women on the youth and courage of the girl beside him.

K. Le Moyne, who was living his own tragedy those days, what with poverty and other things, swore a quiet oath to be no further weight on the girl's buoyant spirit. He had no intention of letting the Street encroach on him. He had built up a wall between himself and the rest of the world, and he would not scale it. But he held no grudge against it. Let others.

GOLD WAVE TONIGHT

Tonight unsettled, rain or snow, colder, freezing.

Temperature will be from 18 to 30 degrees by Tuesday morning.

Tuesday generally fair and colder.

GOETHALS SAYS REPORTS ARE FALSE

Earth Slides at the Panama Canal Will Be Overcome "Finally and for All Time," He Asserts.

Washington, Nov. 13.—The prediction that earth movements in the Panama canal will be overcome "finally and for all time," is reaffirmed by Major General Goethals, governor general of the canal zone, in his annual report made public by the war department. This will be accomplished, General Goethals says, "notwithstanding the calamity howlers and in spite of the disastrous predictions of the 'know-it-alls.'"

Referring to the slides the general says he is moved to go into the subject again only because of the many false reports that have been published.

"Such reports are false and there is no foundation for them," he declares, "yet they seem to have gained great credence, probably because a pending treaty between the United States and Nicaragua contemplates securing from the latter all rights for building a canal on its territory."

NEGRO CUTTING AFFRAY.

A negro cutting scrape took place on North Main street late Saturday afternoon in which a negro preacher named Sterling was pretty badly carved up by another negro named Jim Phillips, both parties living on Cedar Creek. The injured man is not considered dangerously hurt and he will no doubt be out in a few days. Phillips was arrested immediately after the trouble and upon making bond was released from custody.

French scientists believe that carrier pigeons are influenced by magnetism and that, with the spread of wireless telegraphy, much less dependence can be placed in them.

Instead of an inner tube, a new punctureless automobile tire has a removable rubber core that is solid except for cup-shaped air spaces at each side to afford resiliency.



Which?

"Everything baked with Calumet is so tempting—wholesome—delicious—I want 'em all. For things hard to bake right it can't be equalled. Calumet is the world's best Baking Powder—it's moderate in price—pure in the can and pure in the baking—wonderful in leavening and raising power—the most economical to use and to get."

Received Highest Awards
New Cook Book Free
See Sign in Food Can



Cheap and big can Baking Powders do not save you money. Calumet does—It's Pure and far superior to sour milk and soda.

MILK ADVANCES.

Owing to the marked increase in the price of feed it will be necessary to increase the price of milk and cream. The following prices will prevail effective November 10th, 1916: Milk, per gallon, 40 cents; per quart, 12½ cents; per pint, 7 cents. Cream, per gallon, \$1.50; per quart, 50 cents; per pint, 25 cents; per ½ pint, 15 cents. Buttermilk and skimmed milk, 20 cents per gallon or 5 cents per quart. The Wayne Davis Dairy. 64

Mechanism in a German lighthouse that uses electric lights automatically switches on a new lamp and moves it into focus should the original lamp be extinguished.

EARL--FAIRMAN--FRED

Our CARS meet all trains both day and night, regardless of the weather conditions.
ALL CALLS GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION—Also service cars for country trips.

"EFFICIENCY" IS OUR MOTTO
CALL PHONE 509 DAY OR NIGHT
OR LEAVE CALLS AT

THE DIXIE